

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-09

INFO OCT-01 AF-06 ISO-00 SAB-01 SAM-01 CIAE-00 DODE-00

PM-03 H-01 INR-07 L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01

SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 IO-10 /071 W

----- 106697

R 111050Z FEB 75

FM AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2623

INFO AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM

AMEMBASSY SANAA

AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, SY, ET

SUBJECT: SARG STATEMENT SUPPORTS ELF

1. SARG ISSUED OFFICIAL STATEMENT FEBRUARY 8, CALLING FOR RECOGNITION OF ERITREAN LIBERATION MOVEMENT AND OF ERITREAN INDEPENDENCE. STRONGLY WORDED ANNOUNCEMENT ACCUSES ETHIOPIAN GOVERNMENT OF USING "MOST BRUTAL DEGREE OF SUPPRESSION AND VIOLENCE" INCLUDING "PLUNDERING AND MASS MURDER TO EXTERMINATE ERITREAN PEOPLE". SARG CALLED FOR IMMEDIATE END OF "BLOODSHED" AND "SLAUGHTER" COMMITTED BY ETHIOPIAN AUTHORITIES. SARG ALSO ASKED FOR ALL FREEDOM LOVING PEOPLE TO DEPLORE THESE ACTS, TO CALL FOR THEIR END, AND TO SUPPORT ERITREAN PEOPLE IN THEIR RIGHT TO INDEPENDENCE.

2. ERITREAN LIBERATION OFFICE IN DAMASCUS ISSUED STATEMENT FEB.9, URGING OTHER ARAB STATES TO FOLLOW SYRIA'S EXAMPLE IN PROVIDING "ACTIVE AND UNLIMITED" SUPPORT FOR ERITREAN PEOPLE.

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3. OVER PAST WEEK, THERE HAVE BEEN NUMBEROUS OTHER ARTICLES AND COMMENTARIES IN DAMASCUS PRESS ON SITUATION IN ERITREAN WHICH GENERALLY NOTE THAT NEW ETHIOPIAN MILITARY REGIME MISSED OPPORTUNITY TO SETTLE PROBLEM WITH ERITREANS PEACEFULLY WHEN IT DECIDED FOLLOW POLICY OF MILITARY REPRESSION PREVIOUSLY PRACTICED BY EMPEROR. ONE COLUMNIST NOTED ETHIOPIAN POSITION IS KNOWN BY ALL TO BE ENCOURAGED BY U.S.

4. OFFICIAL ETHIOPIAN DELEGATION WHICH VISITED SYRIA JANUARY 26-28 IN CONNECTION TOUR TO OTHER ARAB CAPITALS WAS RECEIVED BY SEVERAL RANKING SARG OFFICIALS INCLUDING PRESIDENT ASAD. FONMIN KHADDAM TOLD ME FEB 10 THAT SARG HAD DECIDED TO RECEIVE THIS DELEGATION, THE FIRST OFFICIAL REPRESENTATIVES FROM ADDIS ABABA RECEIVED IN DAMASCUS IN MANY YEARS BECAUSE NEW ETHIOPIAN GOVERNMENT HAD PROCLAIMED ITSELF "SOCIALIST, ENDING THE REACTIONARY RULE OF HAILE SALASSIE." KHADDAM STATED THAT SYRIA HAD URGED ETHIOPIAN REPS TO FOLLOW PATH OF CONCILIATION WITH ERITREAN LIBERATION FRONT.

5. COMMENT: FEB 8 OFFICIAL STATEMENT REFLECTS SARG'S DECISION TO REITERATE ITS LONGSTANDING POSITION OF SOLID SUPPORT FOR ELF AND STRONG DISPLEASURE WITH ACTIONS OF ETHIOPIAN ARMY IN ERITREA.
MURPHY

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptoning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: RECOGNITION, INDEPENDENCE, FOREIGN POLICY POSITION, LIBERATION FRONTS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 11 FEB 1975
Decapton Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decapton Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: woolflhd
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975DAMASC00486
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750049-0410
From: DAMASCUS
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19750255/aaaabwwm.tel
Line Count: 88
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION NEA
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: woolflhd
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 05 AUG 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <05 AUG 2003 by ElyME>; APPROVED <02 DEC 2003 by woolflhd>
Review Markings:

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Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
05 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: SARG STATEMENT SUPPORTS ELF
TAGS: PFOR, SY, ET, ELF
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 05 JUL 2006